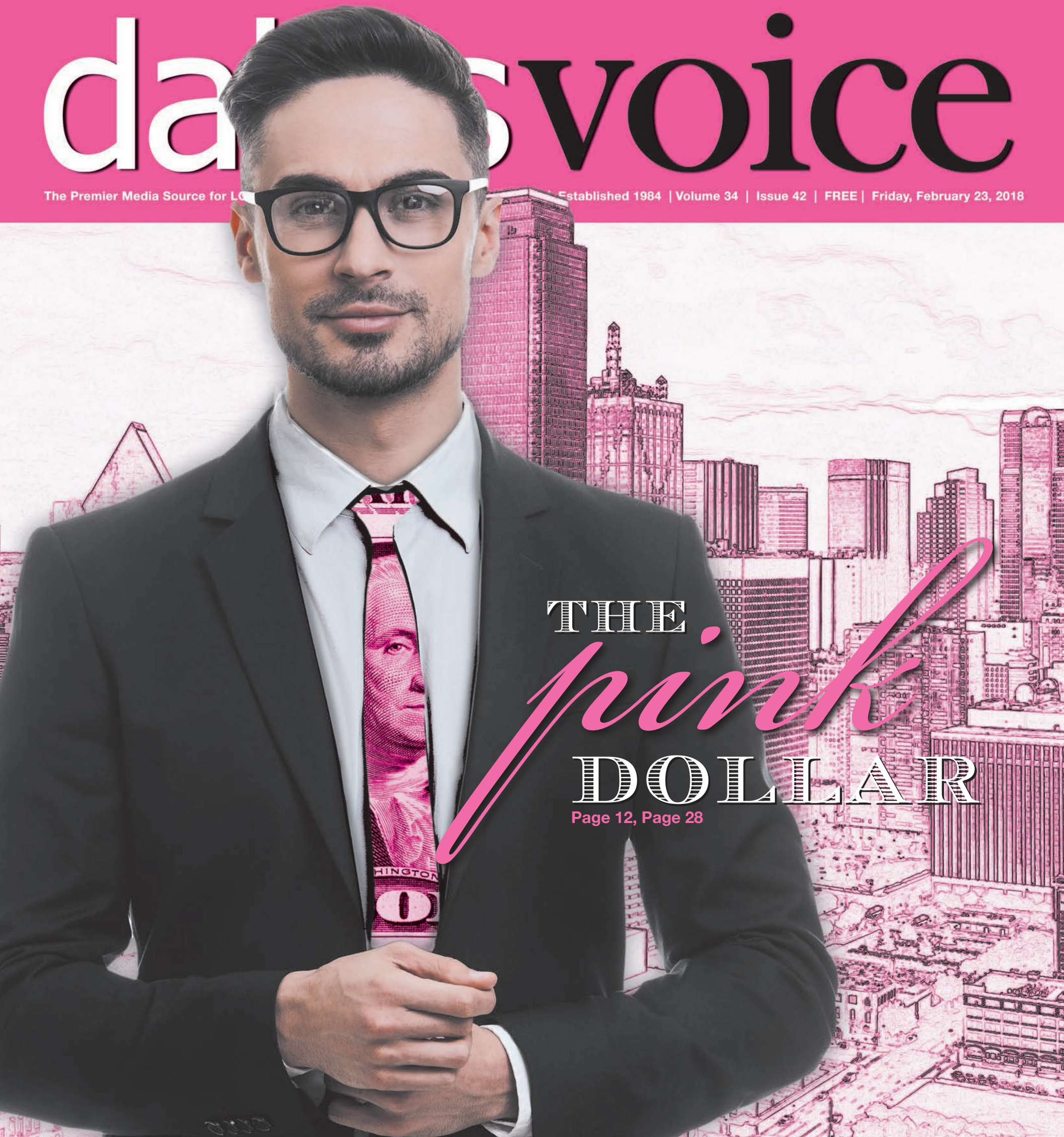


daily voice

The Premier Media Source for L

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What is TRUVADA for PrEP?

TRUVADA for PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) is a prescription medicine that is used together with safer sex practices to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 through sex. This use is only for HIV-negative adults who are at high risk of getting HIV-1. To help determine your risk of getting HIV-1, talk openly with your healthcare provider about your sexual health.

Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to prevent getting HIV. Always practice safer sex and use condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with body fluids. Never reuse or share needles or other items that have body fluids on them.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA for PrEP?

Before taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

- ◆ **You must be HIV-negative before you start taking TRUVADA for PrEP.** You must get tested to make sure that you do not already have HIV-1. Do not take TRUVADA to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 unless you are confirmed to be HIV-negative.
- ◆ **Many HIV-1 tests can miss HIV-1 infection in a person who has recently become infected.** If you have flu-like symptoms, you could have recently become infected with HIV-1. Tell your healthcare provider if you had a flu-like illness within the last month before starting or at any time while taking TRUVADA for PrEP. Symptoms of new HIV-1 infection include tiredness, fever, joint or muscle aches, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, night sweats, and/or enlarged lymph nodes in the neck or groin.

While taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

- ◆ **You must continue to use safer sex practices. Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP may not keep you from getting HIV-1.**
- ◆ **You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP:**
 - ◆ Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months.
 - ◆ If you think you were exposed to HIV-1, tell your healthcare provider right away.
- ◆ **To further help reduce your risk of getting HIV-1:**
 - ◆ Know your HIV status and the HIV status of your partners.
 - ◆ Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV to infect you.
 - ◆ Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior, such as having fewer sex partners.
 - ◆ Do not miss any doses of TRUVADA. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
- ◆ **If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1.** TRUVADA by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.

TRUVADA can cause serious side effects:

- ◆ **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** TRUVADA is not approved to treat HBV. If you have HBV and stop taking TRUVADA, your HBV may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking TRUVADA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health.

Who should not take TRUVADA for PrEP?

Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP if you:

- ◆ **Already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status.** If you are HIV-1 positive, you need to take other medicines with TRUVADA to treat HIV-1. TRUVADA by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.
- ◆ **Also take** certain medicines to treat hepatitis B infection.

What are the other possible side effects of TRUVADA for PrEP?

Serious side effects of TRUVADA may also include:

- ◆ **Kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider may do blood tests to check your kidneys before and during treatment with TRUVADA. If you develop kidney problems, your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking TRUVADA.
- ◆ **Too much lactic acid in your blood** (lactic acidosis), which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- ◆ **Severe liver problems**, which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
- ◆ **Bone problems**, including bone pain, softening, or thinning, which may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.

Common side effects in people taking TRUVADA for PrEP are stomach-area (abdomen) pain, headache, and decreased weight. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or do not go away.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking TRUVADA for PrEP?

- ◆ **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis.
- ◆ **If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.** It is not known if TRUVADA can harm your unborn baby. If you become pregnant while taking TRUVADA for PrEP, talk to your healthcare provider to decide if you should keep taking TRUVADA.
- ◆ **If you are breastfeeding** (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. If you become HIV-positive, HIV can be passed to the baby in breast milk.
- ◆ **All the medicines you take**, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. TRUVADA may interact with other medicines. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.
- ◆ **If you take certain other medicines** with TRUVADA, your healthcare provider may need to check you more often or change your dose. These medicines include certain medicines to treat hepatitis C (HCV) infection.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.FDA.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please see Important Facts about TRUVADA for PrEP including important warnings on the following page.



I'm irresistible, not irresponsible.

I know who I am. And I make choices that fit my life.


TRUVADA for PrEP™ is a once-daily prescription medicine that can help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 when taken every day and used together with safer sex practices.

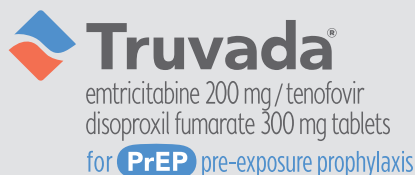
- ◆ TRUVADA for PrEP is only for adults who are at high risk of getting HIV through sex.
- ◆ You must be HIV-negative before you start taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

Ask your doctor about your risk of getting HIV-1 infection and if TRUVADA for PrEP may be right for you.

GILEAD

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disoproxil fumarate 300 mg tablets
for **PrEP** pre-exposure prophylaxis



(tru-VAH-dah)

MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP

Before starting TRUVADA for PrEP:

- **You must be HIV-1 negative.** You must get tested to make sure that you do not already have HIV-1. Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 unless you are confirmed to be HIV-1 negative.
- **Many HIV-1 tests can miss HIV-1 infection in a person who has recently become infected.** Symptoms of new HIV-1 infection include flu-like symptoms, tiredness, fever, joint or muscle aches, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, night sweats, and/or enlarged lymph nodes in the neck or groin. Tell your healthcare provider if you have had a flu-like illness within the last month before starting TRUVADA for PrEP.
- **While taking TRUVADA for PrEP:**
 - **You must continue to use safer sex practices. Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP may not keep you from getting HIV-1.**
 - **You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.** Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months while taking TRUVADA for PrEP. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you think you were exposed to HIV-1 or have a flu-like illness while taking TRUVADA for PrEP.
 - **If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1.** If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.
- See the “How To Further Reduce Your Risk” section for more information.

TRUVADA may cause serious side effects, including:

- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** TRUVADA is not approved to treat HBV. If you have HBV, your HBV may suddenly get worse if you stop taking TRUVADA. Do not stop taking TRUVADA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months.

ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP

TRUVADA for PrEP is a prescription medicine used together with safer sex practices to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 through sex. This use is only for HIV-negative adults who are at high risk of getting HIV-1.

- To help determine your risk of getting HIV-1, talk openly with your healthcare provider about your sexual health.

Do NOT take TRUVADA for PrEP if you:

- **Already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status.**
- Take certain medicines to treat hepatitis B infection.

HOW TO TAKE TRUVADA FOR PrEP

- **Take 1 tablet once a day, every day,** not just when you think you have been exposed to HIV-1.
- Do not miss any doses. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
- Use TRUVADA for PrEP together with condoms and safer sex practices.
- Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months. You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

IMPORTANT FACTS

This is only a brief summary of important information about taking TRUVADA for PrEP™ (pre-exposure prophylaxis) to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection. This does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your medicine.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF TRUVADA FOR PrEP

TRUVADA can cause serious side effects, including:

- Those in the “Most Important Information About TRUVADA for PrEP” section.
- New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.
- Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis), which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- Severe liver problems, which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
- Bone problems.

Common side effects in people taking TRUVADA for PrEP include stomach-area (abdomen) pain, headache, and decreased weight.

These are not all the possible side effects of TRUVADA. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any new symptoms while taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

Your healthcare provider will need to do tests to monitor your health before and during treatment with TRUVADA for PrEP.

BEFORE TAKING TRUVADA FOR PrEP

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis.
- Have any other medical conditions.
- Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. If you become HIV-positive, HIV can pass to the baby in breast milk.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

- Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
- Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with TRUVADA for PrEP.

HOW TO FURTHER REDUCE YOUR RISK

- Know your HIV status and the HIV status of your partners.
- Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV to infect you.
- Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior, such as having fewer sex partners.
- Do not share needles or personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them.

GET MORE INFORMATION

- This is only a brief summary of important information about TRUVADA for PrEP. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more, including how to prevent HIV infection.
- Go to start.truvada.com or call 1-800-GILEAD-5
- If you need help paying for your medicine, visit start.truvada.com for program information.



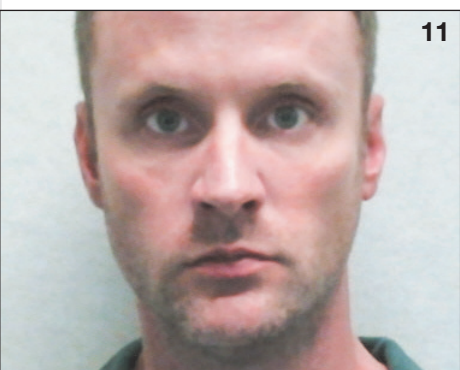
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Version date: April 2017

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Tips on voting while trans

We all know voting matters. Our elected officials have direct impacts on our lives, especially at the local level. But being transgender can often lead to anxiety when it is time to cast your vote.

I'm lucky enough to have voted without incident for several years, but I know that many in our community can't say that. I want to make sure that everyone has the tools you need to successfully navigate voting in the upcoming primaries. With early voting in the primaries already underway, here are my best tips for "voting while trans:"

- **VOTE EARLY.** The early voting period begins February 20 and runs through March 2 for the primaries. During this period, you can vote at any polling location in your county—so use the polling place in the Gayborhood! Often, election officials at polling places in gay neighborhoods are more accepting of everyone who comes in. They know they'll see a diverse crowd and want to help our community vote.
- **KNOW YOUR OPTIONS FOR ID.** In Texas, you are required to present a photo identification if you have one when you vote in person. If you don't have a photo ID, you can present your voter registration card or a utility bill in your name instead. You will be asked to sign a simple document stating that you do not have a photo ID. The election officials are not allowed to question why you do not have a photo ID or to prevent you from voting without a photo ID.

- **VOTE BY MAIL.** If you'll be out of the county

on election day, are over 65, or are sick or disabled, you can vote by mail. You can print this form to request your ballot and then mail in your completed ballot by election day.

- **GO IN A GROUP.** My friends and I often arrange a time when a group of us can go vote together. There is strength in numbers, and the power of being with friends while voting can help everyone feel supported.

The bottom line is, your vote is your voice! Don't let anyone stop you from sharing it. Your elected officials need to hear from you. This is our time to be counted.

— Lou Weaver, Equality Texas

AOC seeking 'spring cleaning' volunteers

AIDS Outreach Center, 400 N. Beach St. in Fort Worth, is looking for volunteers to help with the agency's "spring cleaning day" on Thursday, March 8.

AOC is looking for people to help with painting an office, replacing air filters, filing paperwork, entering data ("because computers need to be cleaned up sometimes, too"), and organizing special event closets. "We need four or five strong and sturdy folks for this [last] one," a representative noted.

Anyone who is willing and able to help is asked to email Tyler Maryak at tylerm@aoc.org.

— Tammye Nash



Chanel Champagne

Benefit set for Chanel Champagne

The Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road, will host a special show to benefit local entertainer Chanel Champagne on Sunday, Feb. 25, beginning at 7 p.m.

There will be no cover, and the show will feature more than 25 drag performances, with all tips going to help pay medical expenses for Chanel,

who is recovering after being injured Feb. 7 in a car accident in Denison.

The entertainer was a passenger in a vehicle that hit a patch of black ice on the highway, spun into the retaining wall and then bounced off that wall and into an 18-wheeler. Chanel underwent surgery for injuries including a broken clavicle, fractured ribs and a broken arm. She also lost a finger in the accident.

— Tammye Nash



"As a friend and ally of the LGBTQ community, it has been an honor to stand for a Texas where ALL TEXANS are treated equally with dignity and respect. As a legislator with a positive record of support for the LGBTQ community, I ask for your continued support in this election."

Roberto



- ★ Sponsored legislation prohibiting insurance companies from discriminating based on sexual orientation, gender identity or expression
- ★ Co-authored legislation preventing bullying & cyberbullying in schools
- ★ Opposed the "Bathroom" Bill

Election Day: Tuesday, March 6th

Vote Early: February 20th – March 2nd

Keep Roberto Alonzo - A Positive Choice Working for Us in Austin!

Pol Ad Pd for by Roberto Alonzo Campaign

A close-up photograph of a man with a beard and glasses, smiling. He is wearing a dark suit jacket over a white dress shirt. His hands are clasped together in front of him. The background is plain white.

Are you PrEPed for the New Year?

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Fort Worth, TX 76110

 **HELP** Center
for LGBT Health and Wellness

THE GAY AGENDA



Have an event coming up? Email your information to Managing Editor Tammye Nash at nash@dallasvoice.com or Senior Staff Writer David Taffet at taffet@dallasvoice.com by Wednesday at 5 p.m. for that week's issue.

• **Feb. 24: Q Cinema's 20th Anniversary**

Q Cinema kicks off its 20th anniversary season with a Cocktail Party and Silent Auction, from 6-8 p.m., at 5188 Monahans Ave.

For more information visit QCinema.org.

• **Feb. 27: Family Night at Durkin's**

GALA North Texas hosts Family Night at Durkin's Pizza, 8930 Texas 121 in McKinney, from 5-8 p.m.. Bring a few cans of fruit cocktail to donate to Frisco Fastpacs. For information visit GALANorthTexas.org.

• **Feb. 28: Aging in the LGBT Community**

The Coalition for Aging LGBT hosts "Aging in the LGBT Community: Our History, the Unique Challenges and How to Engage," from noon to 2 p.m. at The Senior Source, 3910 Harry Hines Blvd. Free CEU's for social workers. Registration required at <https://tinyurl.com/yco5ktef>.

MARCH

• **March 2: Bianca Del Rio**

Performance at 8 p.m. at Majestic Theatre, 1925 Elm St. Tickets start at \$39.50. For more information visit TheBiancaDelRio.com.

• **March 3: Toast to Life – Bollywood**

Steve Kemble hosts and DJ Jennifer Miller entertains from 7-11 p.m. at The Empire Room, 1225 N. Riverfront Blvd. For information email bscott@myresourcecenter.org or visit redallas.ejoinme.org.

• **March 3: Coalition for Aging LGBT seminar**

The Coalition for LGBT Aging North Texas presents its first educational program, Healthcare Benefits and Resources, from 1-3 p.m. at the UNT Health Science Center in the Education and Administration Building, on the 7th floor, 3500 Camp Bowie Blvd. in Fort Worth. For information visit CFA.LGBT

• **March 3: Carousel of Love**

Garza Productions presents "Carousel of Love: A Magical Night of Cabaret Extravaganza," at the Margo Jones Theatre in Fair Park, at Magnolia Lounge, 1121 First Ave. Tickets are \$27 and parking is free. All proceeds will benefit a charitable organization in North Texas. This is an adult-only event. For information visit Facebook.com/GarzaProductionsDFW.

• **March 4: The Women's Chorus of Dallas**

TWCD performs with TWU and DISD singers at 7:30 p.m. at City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. TWCD.org.

• **March 6: Democratic and Republican primaries**

Vote in your precinct polling location only.

• **March 6: Miss Red Pageant**

From 8-11:30 p.m. at the Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road.

• **March 8: Mr. Gay Highland Park USofA**

The Mr. Gay Highland Park USofA pageant begins at 10:30 p.m. at the Round-Up Saloon and Dance Hall, 3912 Cedar Springs Road. Cover charge is \$10.

• **March 8: PFLAG Dallas**

PFLAG meets the second Thursday of every month from 7-9 p.m. at Northaven United Methodist Church, 11211 Preston Road. 972-849-0383. PFLAGDallas@outlook.com.

• **March 9: DFW Pride Happy Hour**

DFW Pride Happy Hour, an LGBT+ community sponsored by Texas Instruments, meets from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at The Cedars Social, 1326 South Lamar St. For information visit DFW Pride Happy Hour on Facebook.

• **March 10: Del Shores comes to Fort Worth**

Q Cinema presents Del Shores in his one-man show, Six Characters in Search of a Play, at 8 p.m. at Sander's Theater in the Fort Worth Community Arts Center, 1300 Gendy St. in Fort Worth. Tickets are \$30, \$50 and \$75, available online at QCinema.org. For information email Kathryn@qcinema.org.



Q Cinema kicks off its 20th anniversary season with a cocktail party and silent auction Saturday, Feb. 24. See listings for details.

• **March 11: Mr. and Miss North Texas Pride Pageant**

• **March 13: Resource Center tour**

Resource Center CEO Cece Cox leads a behind-the-scenes tour of the center's community center at 5750 Cedar Springs Road. RSVP to development@mysresourcecenter.org.

• **March 17: Leprechaun Gaybingo**

Monthly fundraiser for Resource Center takes place from 6-9 p.m. at the Rose Room at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. 214-540-4458. MyResourceCenter.org/gaybingo.

• **March 23-25: Turtle Creek Chorale**

The Turtle Creek Chorale presents Anthems, the songs that shaped the movements, at 7:30 p.m. on Friday-Saturday and 2:30 p.m. on Sunday at City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. TurtleCreekChorale.com.

• **March 24: AIDS Walk South Dallas**

AIDS Walk South Dallas takes place at Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center, 2922 MLK Blvd. Registration is at 8 a.m., followed by the opening ceremonies at 9:15 a.m. and step-off at 10 a.m. Register at AWSD2018.EventBrite.com. For information visit AIDSWalkSouthDallas.com.

• **March 24: Green Tie for Green Haus**

The Gay and Lesbian Fund for Dallas event, from 7-10 p.m. at 7 for Parties, 150 Turtle Creek Blvd., benefits Shared Housing Center. For information visit GLFD.org/greentie.

• **March 24: Different Strokes Golf Association (DSGA)**

New Members Open Scramble is the inaugural event of the 2018 season, starting at 10 a.m. at Cedar Crest Golf Course, 1800 Southerland Ave. \$55.00 includes golf, cart, range balls and prizes. DSGADallas.org or email info@DSGADallas.org for information.

APRIL

• **April 7: No Tie Dinner:**

A Night to Remember Presented by Purple Foundation, and benefits AIDS Services Dallas from 7-11 p.m. at the Frontiers of Flight Museum, 6911 Lemmon Ave. \$75-150. Tickets available online at NoTieDinner.org.

• **April 7: Scarborough Faire**

The annual Renaissance Faire opens and runs through May 28.

• **April 8: Turtle Creek Association Tour of Homes**

The Turtle Creek Association hosts the

Tour of Homes, featuring five residences along the Turtle Creek Blvd., from 1-5 p.m. Tickets are \$54 each for non-association members and \$45 each for members through March 31. Prices go up after that date. Parking will be available at 3811 Turtle Creek Blvd. For information visit TurtleCreekAssociation.org.

• **April 10: Resource Center tour**
Resource Center CEO Cece Cox leads a behind-the-scenes tour of the center's community center at 5750 Cedar Springs Road. RSVP to development@mysresourcecenter.org.


• **April 12: PFLAG Dallas**
PFLAG meets the second Thursday of every month from 7-9 p.m. at Northaven United Methodist Church, 11211 Preston Road. 972-849-0383. PFLAGDallas@outlook.com.

GAY AGENDA, Page 18


pet of the week / JAKE

Meet Jake, a 6-year-old, black-and-tan hound mix weighing 45 pounds. He's a loving, clever guy who loves to play and who knows many commands — like sit, shake, stay and more. He is housetrained, walks well on his leash and loves to go for walks or play in the yard. He can be picky about his dog friends, so he'd do best as an only pet and in a home without children under 10. Jake has been neutered, microchipped and has received all age-appropriate vaccinations. Come meet him today. #107425

Jake is waiting for you at the SPCA of Texas' Jan Rees-Jones Animal Care Center in Dallas, 2400 Lone Star Drive (near I-30 and Hampton Road). Hours are noon-6 p.m. Sun-Wed and noon-7 p.m. Thurs-Sat. Regular adoption fees are \$100 for puppies and kittens aged 0-6 months, \$50 for adult dogs and cats aged 6 months or older, \$25 for senior dogs or cats aged 7 years and older and \$25 for VIP dogs and cats (available for adoption for 30 days or more.) Fee includes spay/neuter surgery, age-appropriate vaccinations, a heartworm test for dogs six months and older and a FIV/FelV test for cats 4 months and older, initial flea/tick preventative and heartworm preventative, a microchip, 30 days of PetHealth Insurance provided by PetPlan, a free 14-day wellness exam with VCA Animal Hospitals, a free year-long subscription to Activ4Pets, a rabies tag and a free leash. Call 214-742-SPCA (7722) or visit today.




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Jeff's passion for creating a close-knit community and his ability to communicate effectively under stressful situations WILL positively impact Precinct 5.

"We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools"
— Martin Luther King, Jr.

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Tuesday, March 6th

FW couple SUES HHS, USCCB

When a Catholic agency administering a federal foster care program for refugee children refused to even let them apply as foster parents, Esplin and Marouf decided to take action

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
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Lambda Legal, acting on behalf of a Fort Worth lesbian couple denied the chance to even apply as foster parents for refugee children, this week filed a federal lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, charging the USCCB with illegal discrimination.

The USCCB receives millions of dollars in grant funding from HHS, through the Office of Refugee Resettlement, to assist with the federal Unaccompanied Refugee Minors Program and the Unaccompanied Alien Child Program. These programs are responsible for identifying eligible children in need of services and then providing services, including placement in homes “that serve their best interests,” according to a Lambda Legal press release.

The grant funds, Lambda Legal noted, are taxpayer dollars.

Fatma Marouf, a professor of law and director of Texas A&M’s Immigrant Rights Clinic, and Bryn Esplin, an assistant professor of bioethics at Texas A&M, contacted the USCCB’s affiliate in Fort Worth to apply as foster parents. But before they could even apply, Marouf said, they were told they were ineligible because they do not “mirror the holy family.”



Marouf said that because of her work as director of Texas A&M’s Immigrant Rights Clinic, administrators at the Fort Worth USCCB affiliate invited her to visit and learn about their work with unaccompanied refugee children — many of which come from countries in the Middle East. She said that when she heard about the program, she felt that her background — she is the child of immigrant parents of Turkish and Egyptian heritage — put her and her wife in a unique position to “offer a loving, culturally sensitive home” to the refugee children.

Marouf said at the press conference Tuesday, Feb. 20 in Fort Worth that she and Esplin had talked about adoption and foster parenting before, but when they learned about a year ago about the program for refugee children, she said, it seemed like a perfect fit.

“We both love kids,” Marouf said, adding that there are a large number of refugee children in need of foster or adoptive homes. These children are “uniquely vulnerable. (and) I felt I understood something about their situation.”

But when Marouf and Esplin contacted the Catholic agency to start the foster parent licensing program, noting in their first interview, via telephone, that they are a married same-sex couple, the agency’s director of international foster care told them they would not be allowed to even apply because they did not “mirror the holy family.”

When Marouf pressed her on what would happen to those among the refugee children who were LGBT, the director declared that none of the children in their care — about 700 — were LGBT.

That same day, Marouf sent an email to

Bryn Esplin, left, and her wife, Fatma Marouf, of Fort Worth, pictured here with Lambda Legal Staff Attorney Jamie Glikberg, right, announced this week they are suing the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops after being denied the chance to apply as foster parents for a refugee child. (Tammye Nash/Dallas Voice)

the Office of Refugee Resettlement, notifying that agency that the USCCB’s Fort Worth affiliate was discriminating against her and Esplin because they were a lesbian couple. It took two months for the ORR to respond to her email, and then they only asked for the name of the person who had told them they couldn’t apply. Marouf sent them that information but still has received no further response.

Marouf said she and her wife were “both completely shocked” by the blatant discrimination. “I really didn’t think, since they get federal funds and this is a federal program, that they would be able to use their religious beliefs to discriminate against us. ... Refugee children have been through enough trauma to last them a lifetime. They need love and stability, which we have in abundance. In discriminating against us, the agency put their religious views above the best interest of the children.”

Esplin noted that they are also an interfaith couple, but that the Catholic agency’s representative confirmed that they were rejected because they are lesbians.

“This was not only deeply disappointing to us, but it denies children an opportunity to have a loving home,” Esplin said during the press conference. “We knew we wanted to do something, not just on behalf of us, but on behalf of other loving, worthy couples, and especially on behalf of the hundreds of

children who are waiting for homes.”

While there are other options available to the couple to foster and/or adopt a child, the federally-funded program operated by USCCB “is the only game in town” through which they could foster or adopt one of the refugee children, Lambda Legal Senior Counsel Kenneth D. Upton said Tuesday. He noted that even though there is no federal law specifically prohibiting discrimination against LGBT people, “there are regulations within HHS that do not allow the agency to discriminate.”

Using religious beliefs to discriminate against a same-sex couple, he stressed, “violates the rules that HHS has to follow.”

Upton said there is some concern that HHS might use proposed rules that would allow medical professionals to cite their religious freedom to refuse treatment to LGBT people and others to try and validate USCCB’s discrimination against Marouf and Esplin. But, he said, those rules have not yet been approved, and Lambda Legal and other civil rights organizations are speaking against them during the public comment review period.

The case was filed Tuesday morning in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. Upton said that since it does not involve an emergency situation, it will likely take several months before any action is taken.

Dallas man facing felony charges in theft case

John Wright Martin stands accused of embezzling \$1M-plus from former employers; also ordered to pay damages in civil suit

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
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A Dallas man is set to go on trial in Collin County at the end of June on four felony charges in connection with funds allegedly embezzled from his former employers, and, in a separate civil suit, has been ordered to pay damages totaling more than \$2 million.

John Wright Martin, 33, who sponsored several events and donated to nonprofits in the LGBT community over the last several years, faces two separate first degree felony charges of theft (more than \$300,000), one third degree felony charge of theft (between

\$30,000 and \$150,000), and one state felony charge of forgery of a financial instrument.

Wright is accused of having embezzled more than \$1 million from Randy and Kristy Pitchford, the Frisco couple for whom he worked as a personal assistant beginning in 2014. He allegedly used some of the embezzled funds to make large donations — both cash donations and items for charity auctions — to local nonprofit agencies serving the LGBT and HIV communities.

Randy Pitchford is a co-founder and CEO and president of Gearbox Software, based in Frisco. His wife, Kristy, is writer and producer and also owns Nerdvana Café restaurant and coffee shop in Frisco.

In a hearing held Thursday, Feb. 15, Judge Andrea Thompson, in Collin County's 416th District Court, set Wright's trial



John Wright Martin

FELONY, Page 16

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What the ‘tax reform’ really looks like

As you may or may not be aware, tax reform was signed into law in December 2017. I followed the drama of it and the ongoing implementation challenges with the kind of attention that most of my friends pay to the Winter Olympics or the Academy Awards.

Fortunately for my friends, I don’t talk too much about it.

When I think of reform, I generally think in terms of “change for the better.” While the tax code has most certainly not been “reformed,” many of us will see a decrease to our income taxes next year.

Like almost everything else in the world, the tax bill was subject to tradeoffs among conflicting goals, priorities, and processes. If the goal was simply to reduce the tax burden for individuals, then there could have been simple changes made to the tax brackets to achieve that.

While it was touted at one point as the “Cut, Cut, Cut” bill, the reality is there’s a lot more to it than just lowering taxes for everyone.

The government is going to fund itself for those things that it takes as priorities.

Politicians are going to posture and ensure they have good talking points for the next election cycle. What is given somewhere is taken from somewhere else in this budgeting shell game.

Suzanne Butler
Special Columnist

That’s just part of why some provisions were pushed in and pulled out at the last minute. In fact, many of the changes revert back in eight year, on Dec. 31, 2025, to the old “un-reformed” way they were before the new law was passed.

Winners and Losers: Individuals

So who will be the winners and the losers? Individuals filing as single with taxable income between \$157,000-417,000 are likely to be in a higher marginal tax bracket. Practically everyone else will be in a lower bracket.

This doesn’t automatically mean you will

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Check the Pink Dollar stories online at DallasVoice.com for Suzanne Butler’s advice on overcoming the taboo of talking about money and better managing your finances.

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save or pay more in taxes, because there are also new standard deduction amounts, limits on itemized amounts and removal of the personal exemption. While you won't see the impact of tax reform on the returns that are being done right now for the 2017 tax year, the tax changes will affect your 2018 tax returns, and the expectation (and what I'm seeing in my practice) is that most people will be saving taxes under the new law.

Winners and Losers: Small Business Owners

Many businesses stand to realize tax savings next year due to the decrease in the corporate rate. In addition to the decrease in the corporate rate, there is a new deduction allowed for sole proprietorships, LLCs, partnerships and S-Corps (known as pass through entities) to give these businesses tax relief.

A 20 percent deduction is available for certain business income, depending on whether criteria is met for the type of work the business performs and how much money is actually being made by the individual owner from the business and other sources.

Like everything else that Congress does, the rules contain a confusing and ridiculous set of calculations and if/thens required to know if and how much of the business income qualifies for the deduction. Every client's scenario will be different, so this is something that business owners need to start planning for now with their tax advisors.

In its simplest terms, if an individual with a non-C corporation business entity has less than \$157,000 of taxable income, (or \$315,000 taxable income if married filing jointly), then they can deduct 20 percent of the qualified business income, subject to certain other limitations. If you make more than that, there are restrictions based on your field of employment, how much you paid employees and how much business property your business owns.

Sound confusing? It is.

LGBT issues

As a member of the LGBT community, I am often asked about finances and tax planning specific to our community. When marriage equality became the law of the land, it

changed the way same-sex married couples filed their taxes. Since that time, the distinctions between same-sex couples and opposite-sex couples have largely gone away for tax purposes.

I saw an online IRS form yesterday that asked if the couple were "husband and wife" for purposes of determining how to treat their business partnership. While I'm 95 percent certain that neither of these lovely gentlemen would appreciate being called "husband and wife," I had to answer the question with "yes" because they are married.

I shared this story with family lawyer Susan Vrana, who works in our community on custody and divorce issues, and she was not at all surprised because, in fact, most of the forms she sees for divorce cases still say "husband and wife."

I took a screen shot of the "husband and wife" verbiage on IRS.gov. Hopefully in the not too distant future, it will be a quaint relic.

Perhaps one of the opportunities we have now that we can choose to be married or to be coupled but unmarried is a more deliberate view of our incomes and that of our

partner's to at least know if getting married would save us money or cost us money.

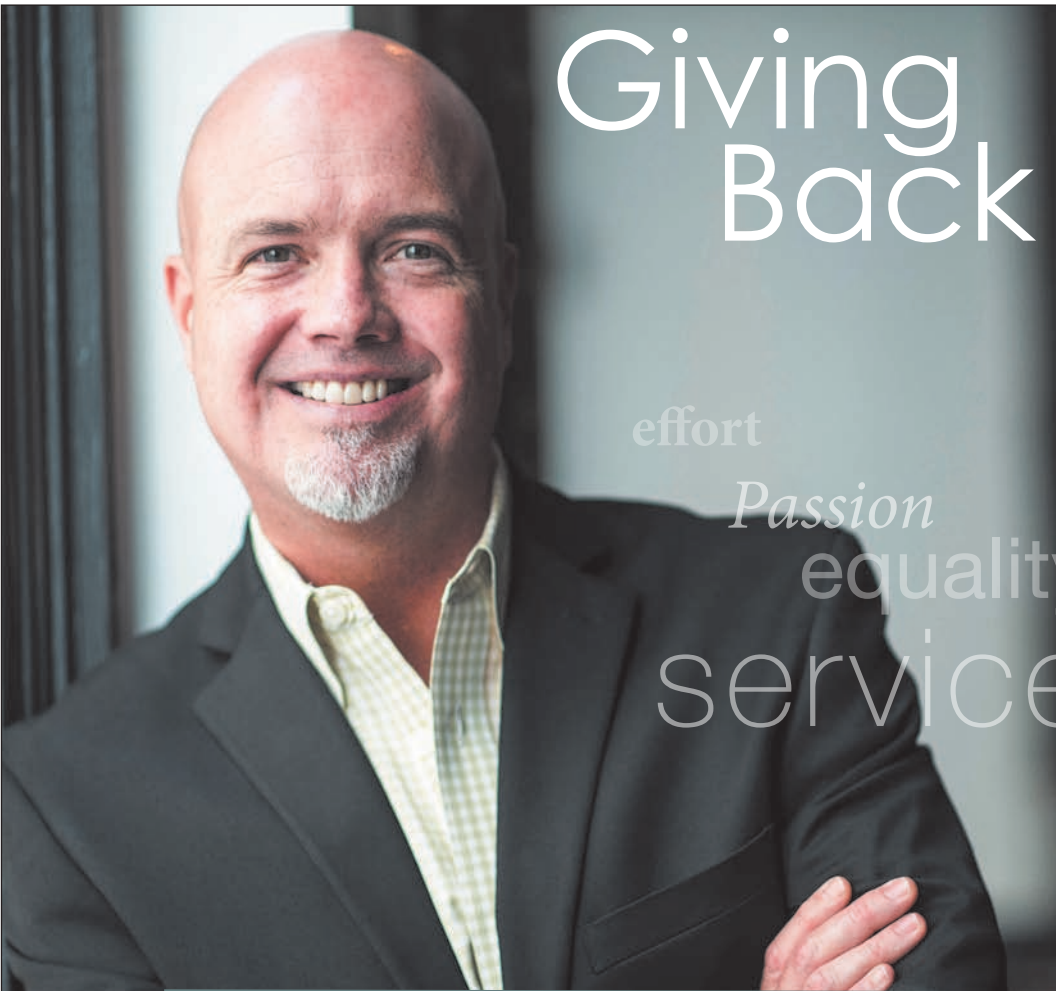
For example, with the deduction for property taxes limited to \$10,000, if you had a property that cost you \$18,000 in property taxes each year, you would lose \$8,000 of the deductible expense each year because it was over the \$10,000 limit. Now imagine that you were not married but decided to share housing costs and split the deductions. You could potentially deduct \$9,000 and your partner could deduct \$9,000, thus getting the full property tax bill deducted.

Of course, your separate and combined incomes could play a factor as well in what the actual tax would be, so you would have to model your specific scenario to ensure it would lower your combined taxes.

Ways to lower your income tax

LGBT or not, here are some things you need to be doing now to ensure you get the maximum savings on your taxes.

- Max out your tax-deferred accounts. Individuals can contribute up to \$18,500 to a 401k plan and \$3,450 to a health savings account. Assuming you are in the 22 per-



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cent tax bracket, every \$1,000 saved in one of these plans will get you out of paying \$220 in taxes.

Put another way, by saving this money in a 401k, you have just earned a 22 percent return on those dollars. Beyond saving \$220 on taxes, the full amount can be invested and earn even more money for you. Additionally, many employers will match part of your 401k contributions, so you can build your account balances even faster.

- Keep records of any large purchases during the year like autos, boats, motorcycles or campers. If you end up itemizing your deductions, you can add the sales tax paid on these items to your deductions on Schedule A, assuming your total property and sales tax deduction stays below \$10,000.

- Avoid taking retirement account distributions early, but if you must, please make sure taxes are withheld, or you should immediately set aside 25-35 percent of the distribution amount to pay the tax bill later.

I've seen too many people that leave a job and because the balance is "small," just take a check for the balance in their retirement account rather than rolling it over into

an IRA. For example, if someone in the 22 percent tax bracket takes a distribution of \$7,500 from a 401k, they will owe regular tax and a 10 percent penalty totaling \$2,400 on this distribution. Nobody wants to have to come up with an extra \$2,400 the following April to pay taxes on money that was long ago spent.

If you are a small business owner, or if you have income from a side business, make sure you keep records of all the expenses incurred in running your business. People often overlook tracking mileage for their business, but this can really add up and is worth a deduction of 54.5 cents per mile driven for your business. While you can't deduct your daily commute, other driving for your business can be deducted.

And while you're at it, print out your NTTA statements to keep track of TollTag expenses. If you are a landlord, keep this in mind for your rental properties as well.

Suzanne Butler is a Dallas-based CPA offering tax return services for businesses and individuals and business startup support. She is also a Quickbooks certified proAdvisor/advanced. Call 469-387-6140 or visit SButlerCPA.com. ■



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on all four charges for June 25.

That same day, Judge Bruce McFarling in the 362nd District Court in Denton County issued a summary judgment in a civil lawsuit the Pitchfords filed against Martin, ordering Martin to pay the couple more than \$2 million in damages.

The civil suit and the criminal charges were filed in different counties because Frisco — where the Pitchfords live and where Martin lived at one time — is located in both Collin and Denton counties. The Frisco Police Department investigated the criminal charges.

In a statement Feb. 15 after McFarling issued his ruling, Randy Pitchford said he and his wife were pleased with the outcome of the civil suit.

"The discovery of John Wright Martin's theft, deceit and betrayal of trust has been devastating to our family," Randy Pitchford said. "His crimes not only caused tangible irreparable damage to our local businesses and charities, including the fine people and their families that depend upon them, but his crimes have also harmed and distressed the larger sense of well being of everyone in the community that his behavior has imposed upon."

"My family and I have been grateful for the support of local law enforcement and local prosecutors in the effort to bring the dangerous charlatan, John Wright Martin, to justice," Randy Pitchford added. "Today's victories in court give me confidence that justice will be served."

The allegations

In an interview last fall, Kristy Pitchford told Dallas Voice that she began looking for a personal assistant in early 2014, when she was dealing with "a lot of stuff on my plate" both at home and in connection with Kristy Pitchford Enterprises. She hired Martin, who told her he had just moved to Dallas from Abilene, in February 2014.

She said Martin quickly proved to be "really good" not only at managing the Pitchford household, but also at event planning, and that soon she was giving him greater access as he took over paying household bills and played an integral role in her efforts to design and open her restaurant, Nerdvana. Giving him access to certain household accounts and credit cards proved to be an efficient shortcut, she said.

"Eventually, he had practically unlimited

access" to the household accounts, she said.

Randy Pitchford recalled how happy Kristy was to have someone she could rely on to help manage their household as she expanded her businesses. "John was so eager to help," he said. "He was part of the family. We trusted him."

"We absolutely trusted him," Kristy Pitchford added. But by early 2017, they had discovered their trust had been misplaced, they said.

The Pitchfords said that by the spring of 2016, Martin was spending more and more of his time building his own interior design business and less time working as Kristy Pitchford's assistant. He bought a large home in Frisco, near the Pitchfords' home, using money he said he had inherited from his grandfather, and was supposedly getting more and more work as a designer as he was spending less and less time working for the Pitchfords.

"He started bringing 'his assistants' into my house, because he was so busy with his company," Kristy Pitchford said. "That made me really uncomfortable. It was strange to me that my assistant had assistants."

By October 2016, Martin had officially

stopped working for the Pitchfords.

"I was devastated to lose him," Kristy Pitchford said. "He was my friend as well as my employee. But at the same time, I understood" him wanting to spend his time on his own business.

A few months later, however, Kristy Pitchford said, came the first real indication that all had not been as it seemed. It was Feb. 15, 2017, when her business assistant contacted Kristy Pitchford to let her know that the account she used to pay her employees was empty.

It was a Friday evening, Kristy Pitchford said, that the bank's branch manager told her the account had been drained via a \$150,000 auto draft. "My first instinct was to call John. And he was so ready for me," she said.

He immediately told her that there had been a banking error, that the money was supposed to have been taken from his account, she recalled.

"He told me, 'Don't worry. I've got this covered.' A part of me was like, this feels really off. But at the same time, there was no evidence for me not to believe him," Kristy Pitchford said.

But as she began digging deeper into her

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accounts, Kristy Pitchford said she began to realize that “things weren’t adding up.” By the following Monday, she said, she had realized that at least a half-million dollars were missing from her accounts.

Martin promised to wire the money to cover the mistake. But, Kristy Pitchford said, Martin kept making excuses on why he hadn’t yet wired her the money. Then she and her husband discovered discrepancies in other accounts. And by the end of the week, Martin had stopped even answering their messages.

The Pitchfords said that as the days passed, they found more and more evidence of their former employee’s duplicity.

He had told people that he was a partner in Kristy Pitchford Enterprises, using his connection with the couple to drum up customers for his interior design business, they said. They said Martin would use their credit accounts to take “business” trips, even staging an exclusive party in Miami to promote an artist friend of his. He would also purchase expensive furniture, artwork and other furnishings with the Pitchfords’ credit accounts, they said, and then turn around and sell them to other shops for cash.

Kristy Pitchford said once police began investigating the case, they discovered that



the thefts “began within just a few months of him starting to work for us. It was just little things here and there at first, but it grew.”

Even after Martin was caught and initially arrested, she added, “he was still embezzling from my restaurant account.”

Criminal court records

Collin County records online show five criminal cases against Martin currently pending.

Frisco police filed a first degree felony charge against Martin of theft of property (more than \$300,000) on Aug. 10, 2017. Offense date is listed as March 9, 2016.

On Oct. 10, 2017, Frisco police filed a second first degree felony charge of theft of property (more than \$300,000) and a state felony charge of forgery of a financial instrument against Martin.

The Collin County District Attorney’s Office a third degree felony charge of theft of property (\$30,000-150,000) against Martin on Nov. 16, 2017.

All four of the felony charges were filed by indictment. All four cases are set for a discovery conference hearing on May 25, for a pre-trial hearing on June 15, and for jury trial on June 25, all in Judge Andrea

Thompson’s 416th District Court.


The fifth criminal case pending against Martin, according to Collin County’s online records, is a probation revocation linked to a third degree felony DWI (third or more offense) charge from April 22, 2016. Records show Martin pleaded guilty on July 10, 2017, and was sentenced to probation. A motion to revoke probation was filed Feb. 14, 2014.

Civil lawsuit judgment


Randy and Kristy Pitchford filed their civil lawsuit against Martin and JWM Designs LLC in the 362nd District Court in Denton County, Judge Bruce McFarling presiding, charging Martin with breach of contract, fraud and violations of the Texas Theft Liability Act.

McFarling awarded the Pitchfords “actual damages on those claims in the amount of \$1,464,918.80,” and “additional damages against Martin for violations of the Texas Theft Liability Act ... for a total actual damages award ... in the amount of \$1,474,918.80.”

In addition, McFarling awarded “in their claims against JWM for suit on check and breach of contract” another \$598,000, plus \$27,500 in attorney’s fees.



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• **April 13: Compassion Fatigue Symposium**

Ed-U-Care presents a program for caregivers from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at Lovers Lane United Methodist Church, 9200 Inwood Road.

• **April 21: Gaybingo of Oz**

Monthly fundraiser for Resource Center takes place from 6-9 p.m. at the Rose Room at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. 214-540-4458.

MyResourceCenter.org/gaybingo.

• **April 21: Chamber Gala**

The North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce hosts its Gala from 6:30-10:30 p.m. at a private estate in Old Preston Hollow. Includes a silent auction, hors d'oeuvres and libations. Individual tickets are \$65; sponsorships are available. Contact the chamber at 214-821-4528 for details.

• **April 23-29: 7th Annual National Black**

Trans Advocacy Conference Workshops and the Mr & Miss Black Trans International Pageant. Wyndham Dallas Suites-Park Central, 7800 Alpha Road. BlackTransMen.org.

• **April 25: Woman to Woman luncheon**

Jill Biden is the keynote speaker at the Jewish Family Services luncheon at 10 a.m. at Hyatt Regency Hotel, 300 Reunion Blvd. E. Tickets at jfsdallas.org/woman.

MAY

• **May 8: Resource Center tour**

Resource Center CEO Cece Cox leads a behind-the-scenes tour of the center's community center at 5750 Cedar Springs Road. RSVP to development@mysresourcecenter.org.

• **May 10: PFLAG Dallas**

PFLAG meets the second Thursday of every month from 7-9 p.m. at Northaven United Methodist Church, 11211 Preston Road. 972-849-0383. PFLAGDallas@outlook.com.

• **May 11-14: Purple Party**

• **May 12: House of DIFFA: Alter Ego**
Celebrate fashion, design and philanthropy at the annual black tie gala including runway show and after party at the Omni Dallas

• **May 13: Mother's Day with The**

Women's Chorus of Dallas
TWCD performs at 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. at Texas Discovery Gardens, 3601 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

• **May 14: First day of early voting**

Early voting for the primary runoff election runs May 14-18. Vote in any early voting location in your county.

• **May 19: AOC Evening of Hope**

AIDS Outreach Center of Fort Worth hosts its annual Evening of Hope gala at the Hilton Hotel Fort Worth, 815 Main St. Single tickets are \$200. Sponsorships are available. For information visit AOC.org/eoh.php.

• **May 19: Marvel vs. DC Gaybingo**

Monthly fundraiser for Resource Center takes place from 6-9 p.m. at the Rose Room at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. 214-540-4458. MyResourceCenter.org/gaybingo.

• **May 19: GLAAD Media Institute**

Equality Texarkana presents Engagement 101: Telling Your Story: Messaging and Media Tools for Today's Activist from 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m. at Texas A&M Texarkana, 7101 University Ave., Texarkana, Texas. Tickets at GLAAD.org/institute/courses.

• **May 22: Primary runoff election**

Vote in your precinct polling location only.

• **May 31-June 3: TBRU**



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We have to do more than believe

Often, when I see the world, this country, our state in such a mess — like we are seeing here in the aftermath of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting in Parkland, Fla., on Valentine's Day — I tend to rail against what has happened, to talk about what others need to do to solve the problem.

Perhaps a better step might be to think about what I really believe in, and what that belief really means.

So, in what do I believe?

I believe in justice. I believe in forgiveness. I believe in kindness. I believe in understanding. I believe in having love for one another. I believe in you. And I believe in me.

I believe that we are not on some existential journey, just reacting to external stimuli. I believe God has placed us on this earth for a reason, and that reason is to do unto others as we would have done to us.

Just that simple.

I believe I am no better than you, no matter who you are. I believe I don't have all the answers, so I really should listen to you, whether I agree with you or not. I believe I am a fallible, defective human being who is nevertheless loved by God.

That's what I believe. But so what?

What good is belief without some kind of action?

Lee Ann Womack sings a song called "I Hope You Dance." It is the most spiritual non-spiritual song I have ever heard. Here are the words; take the time to read them.

*I hope you never lose your sense of wonder.
You get your fill to eat, but always keep that hunger.*

May you never take one single breath for granted.

God forbid love ever leave you empty-handed.

I hope you still feel small when you stand beside the ocean.

Whenever one door closes, I hope one more opens.

Promise me that you'll give faith a fighting chance.

And when you get the choice to sit it out or dance, I hope you dance

I hope you dance

I hope you never fear those mountains in the distance.

Never settle for the path of least resistance.

Livin' might mean takin' chances, but they're worth takin'.

Lovin' might be a mistake, but it's worth makin'.

Don't let some hellbent heart leave you bitter. When you come close to sellin' out, reconsider.

Give the heavens above more than just a passing glance.

And when you get the choice to sit it out or dance,

I hope you dance (Time is a wheel in constant motion, always rolling us along)

I hope you dance

I hope you dance (Tell me who wants to look back on their years and wonder)

I hope you dance (Where those years have gone?)

I hope you still feel small when you stand



Jon Nelson
Special Contributor

beside the ocean.

Whenever one door closes, I hope one more opens.

Promise me that you'll give faith a fighting chance.

And when you get the choice to sit it out or dance.

Dance —

I hope you dance.

If that isn't the formula for living one's life, I don't know what is.

It is a call to live, a call to action. It is a call to be engaged in this world. It tells us what feelings to strive for and what actions to take in our lives.

The song does not tell us specifically what to do; it doesn't have to. That is up to us. And because we are all different, what we do and how we do it are up to us.

Over our lifetime, there will be many opportunities. Nothing on a grand scale is required, just something from me and you.

I cannot cure poverty, but I can lend a hand. I cannot by myself ban semi-automatic weapons, or enforce better background checks, or force more scrutiny on mental health screenings.

But I can sign a petition; I can voice my opinions when it is uncomfortable to do so. And I can VOTE.

For me, it takes thought and, for some things, a little planning. Isn't it worth that small amount of time? That's a question each of us will have to answer.

But there's one thing I'm certain of: You will always derive more out of giving than the recipient. So I ask God to help me live what I believe, and as for you ...

I HOPE YOU DANCE.

Gloria Estefan's *very gay* year

Just as her B'way musical 'On Your Feet!' settles into Fair Park, the pop icon reflects of perseverance, her queer movie and now out-and-proud daughter

LIFE+STYLE profile

compassionate, patient, badass, talented, and the most beautiful... Moon Flower. I love you."

Considering Gloria's everlasting love and support for the LGBTQ community, Emily's refreshingly matter-of-fact coming out must've been the sweet, sweet icing on her pop-legend mother's already-queer year.

Gloria, who left an indelible stamp on '80s pop music with trailblazing crossover hits like "Conga" and "Rhythm is Gonna Get You," starred in last year's seemingly made-for-Trump-voters, empathy-spurring dramedy *A Change of Heart*. The Queen of Latin Pop portrays Dr. Fajardo (her "alter ego," as she originally studied psychology at the University of Miami and planned to be a doctor), the therapist who advises Jim Belushi's bigoted, FoxNews-watching dad character, Hank, as he comes to terms with the foolish possibility that his new heart from a recent transplant is, as Gloria puts it, "pumping gayness into him."

Hank's youngest daughter, Josie (Aimee Teegarden), also just happens to be a lesbian, but neither Estefan nor her husband Emilio (both produced the film, while longtime Gloria-collaborator Kenny Ortega directed) never mentioned Emily's own queerness when we met up at a red carpet event at the festival in late April in their hometown of Miami to discuss the queer-themed project — the woke Estefans know you let your children make that statement when they're good and ready. But they did express, as always, their passion for equality, with Gloria acknowledging — because she is officially Global Mother to the Gays now — "I just felt natural in the role. To us, we're allies because we're human beings. That's the bottom line. Everybody is a human being. We're all the same. We always see everyone as the same, whatever their preference is for love, sex, religion, culture. That's always been important to us."

That creed extends to their roles as equal-opportunity business owners. Regarding Estefan Enterprises, which comprises their entertainment company, restaurants, hotels and a beach resort, Emilio says, "[Whether] you're Latino or gay — you have to see somebody based on the kind of work they're gonna do, and

I think that's happening now. I think it's a lot better — much, much better."

Gloria's life- and career-long commitment to stand for racial and economic justice, immigration equality and

■ ESTEFAN Page 29

Why, of course global queer icon Gloria Estefan — muse to drag queens worldwide and subject of the Broadway musical *On Your Feet*, arriving via its national tour this week in Dallas — has a daughter who is not straight.

To close out 2017, Gloria's 23-year-old daughter, Emily,

celebrated — for the first time publicly — her one-year anniversary with girlfriend Jeremy Hernández via Instagram. Emily's snap of the couple was captioned, "Happy anniversary to my delicate, bold, intelligent, important, honest, loving, funny (but not funnier than me), brave,

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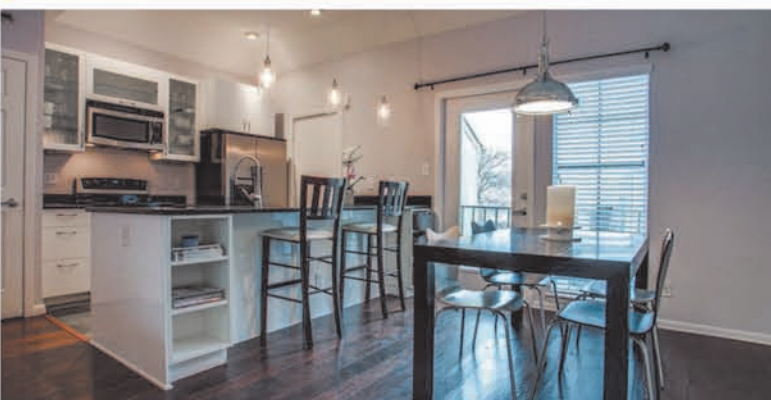
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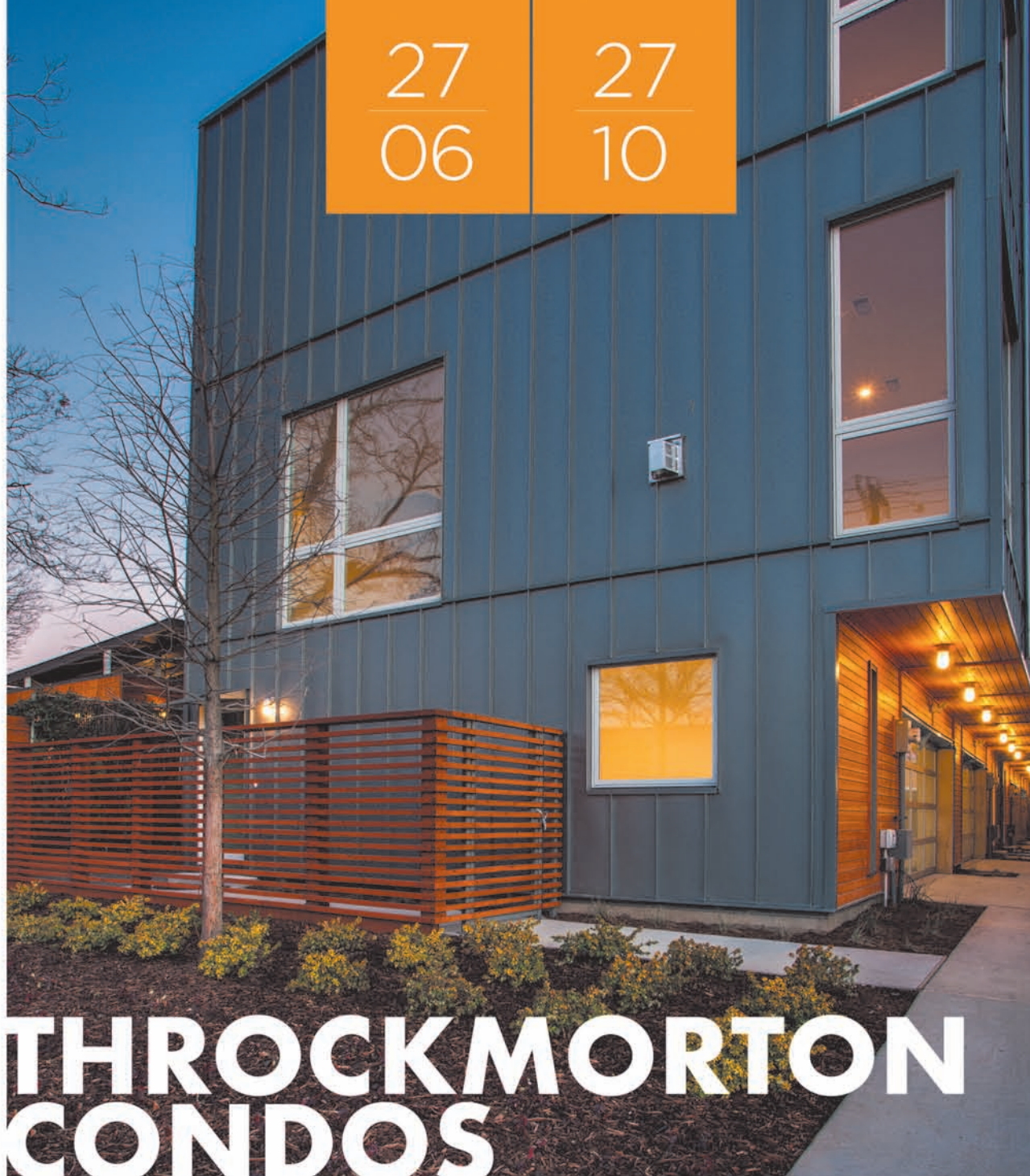
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L+S screen

Woman on the verge

Trans actress Daniela Vega exudes dignity in the Oscar-nominated 'Fantastic Woman'



ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

Marina (Daniela Vega) is a waitress and aspiring nightclub singer in Santiago, happily partnered with Orlando, an older businessman. He comes to see her sing and plans a vacation for them to the country. They are dully contented until Orlando has palpitations and Marina rushes him to the ER, where he dies. But they aren't married — in fact, marriage as an option is still something new. Marina is a transwoman, and while to the outside world they appear to be a boring hetero couple, the vagaries of law make what should be a time of grief an ordeal of accusations and personal attacks.

And that's just the beginning.

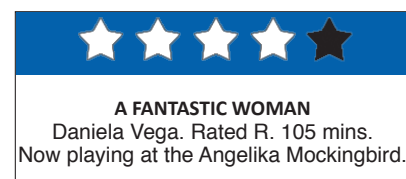
The power of many of the scenes in *A Fantastic Woman* are moments many in the gay community will sadly recognize from their own lives: A doctor skeptical that this "woman" is a family member; a cop questioning whether her name really is Marina; a son dismissively using the wrong pronoun (or intentionally using a

masculine name). Almost as bad are the "savvy" bureaucrats who "know" Marina is a prostitute, or a "victim" of an older man, a gold-digger, or even a murderer. I mean, what else could she be? It's death of dignity inflicted by a thousand tiny cuts. And of course, the only way to combat

such disrespect is by being one's self.

In some ways, *A Fantastic Woman* — Chile's entry in the Oscars and one of the current five nominees for best foreign language

film — plays out in fairly predictable beats. We can sense the arc of Marina's travails. But if it is plotted with familiar tropes, it does so with emotional power. It has the same bracing impact as race-based lynchings in films about the Civil Rights Movement, or treatment of Jews during the Holocaust, or the genocidal purges in Africa or Central Europe. But the fact it is happening today, in broad daylight, during what should be an enlightened era of sexuality, makes it feel all the more



Going to extremes

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Even if you aren't a Prius geek, you know there's something different about the Prime Advanced edition. Sure, the familiar shape is there, and it gets extraordinary fuel economy, but there's something more aggressive about it. It's more aggressively styled... and is more aggressively efficient. It's just more aggressively Prius.

Prius Prime has an angrier face and overall futuristic look. The lower face, with its vertical running lamps and sculpting, could have come from a sports car. Above,

quad LED projector lamps on each side glisten and shine. The side profile is pure Prius, but the rear hatch — crafted from carbon-fiber-reinforced polymer — features a double bubble affect and unique LED taillamps.

This is my favorite Prius interior. A large digital instrument display beneath the windshield is a Prius hallmark, but the center controls are dominated by a vertical, almost Tesla-like, HD touchscreen display for audio, climate and navigation. It's a little cumber-

some to use, but you find your way around quickly with pinch, zoom, tap and swipe functionality. Drivers also get a head-up display for speed, navigation directions and energy use.

Heated leather seats, heated leather-wrapped steering wheel and automatic

climate control enhance comfort, as does the JBL audio system. That arching roof provides a roomy cabin, but rear passengers are separated by the battery tunnel, so only two need apply. Open the big hatch and flip down the rear seats for ample storage. Safety is fortified by forward collision

■ **AUTO** Next Page



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Drivers can choose how to use available energy, too, with three buttons beneath the big screen. One in the middle switches the car between normal gas/electric hybrid mode and pure EV mode, which stays active up to 84 mph or when the juice runs out. To the right, is the Auto EV mode, which favors all-electric driving, but more often perks up the gas engine under acceleration. To the left is a button that changes the throttle from nearly numb in ECO mode to Normal and Aggressive.

'17 PRIUS PRIME
Toyota. 121 horsepower 1.8 liter
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This is by far the best-driving Prius yet. A 4-wheel independent suspension and enhanced steering feel lets you zip through corners with confidence, though a dearth of power will squelch the fun quickly if acceleration is your desire. It's not all paradise. A Prius is still a Prius. Styling is iconic, but not everyone's sport coat. If at the end of

the day you like it, then plug one into your own garage. Twenty years on, the Prius is still a vision of the future. It looks, drives and charges like a next-decade ride. But it's here today with a base price of just \$27,100 (the one we tested was loaded up to \$33,985), putting Prius Prime against the Chevy Volt, Hyundai Ioniq, Kia Nero and Ford Fusion Energi.

A luxe mountain goat
You'll spend a heckuva lot more on a Lexus — sticker and fuel costs — than with a Prius, but glamour has a pricetag. The 2018 Lexus LX 570 is about the poshest mountain goat you could roll into your garage — and there's nothing fake news about it. Well, maybe just its nose — with that outrageous spindle grille smashing wind



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into particles as 6,000 lbs. of SUV follow it. You can slap a decadently sculpted hood on it, 20-in. wheels under it and gingerbread it with chrome and step bars, but it's still a big truck, though it looks more like a Lexus with triple LED headlamps and LED taillamps.

Climb aboard to spoil thyself. It's a bit of a heave to get inside, but once there, plant your rump on heated and ventilated front leather seats, grip the heated steering wheel and crank the crisp audio system. Second row passengers enjoy their own bun warmers and climate controls, housed in a fancy armrest. It's a little tighter in the third-row, but adults fit for shorter trips. Available open pore walnut on the steering wheel, dash and doors adds ambience, as does soft ambient lighting. A large head-up display keeps drivers looking forward.

As in other Lexus models, infotainment is managed through a wide screen in the upper dashboard and controlled with a joystick in the console. It's a bit much to use while going down the road but does provide comprehensive access to audio, climate control, navigation and vehicle settings. Radar adaptive cruise, Pre-Collision System with Pedestrian Detection, Lane Departure Alert, rear cross path detection, blind spot warnings and around-view cameras enhance safety.

Mash pedals into plush carpeting to throw it forward. Kicking this goat in the shins is a 32-valve 5.7-liter V8 engine delivering 383 horsepower and 403 lb.-ft. of torque. That gets routed to the full-time 4-wheel-drive system through a smooth-shifting 8-speed automatic transmission. The Plaza Hotel of trucks whooshes from 0-60 mph in 7.3 seconds on the way to a 137 mph top speed. Click onto trailers weighing up to 7,000 lbs. And, fuel economy? Heh, well, that's cute. You'll melt plastic given 13/18-MPG city/hwy.

Right in the beautiful wood panel across the wide center console is an array of buttons that would give jumbo jet pilots a fright. That's how you control the chassis and powertrain like fine-tuning a string instrument... if a string instrument climbed mountains. Various buttons raise/lower the suspension, control the drive modes (adjusts throttle, steering and suspension from comfort to sport), configures the powertrain for varying terrain, and engages Crawl Control with Turn Assist for serious off-roading. The LX can even automatically adjust its height and suspension should you wish. Play it like Charlie Daniels, hoss!

The LX 570 is a formidable beast of a luxury SUV, but it isn't without foibles. Adaptive suspension or not, it drives like the 6,000-lbs. truck it is. Corners aren't attacked so much as careened. As is typical in serious off-road vehicles, the steering

can feel a bit twitchy on paved roads. And there were strange vibrations from the audio system. It's all minor stuff that reminds you of the LX's serious capability.

Based on the thoroughly proven Toyota Land Cruiser, a fixture in the most inhospitable places on earth, the big Lexus gets it brawn genuinely. It's as roomy and comfy as an LS sedan but can go places only serious off-road vehicles dare. Nothing fake about that! A base price of \$84,980, or \$93,360 as-tested, sets cleats against the Cadillac Escalade, Mercedes-Benz GLS, Audi Q7, Lincoln Navigator, Range Rover and Infiniti QX80. ■

■ WOMAN From Page 24

horrific.

Director Sebastian Lelio touches on all the hot buttons — gay-bashing, gay bars, public humiliation, rejection — with an eye for memorable set-pieces: Marina walking against a wind (an unseen force of irresistible power); her face, wrapped in tape, distorting her features in her reflection; an intrusive and unnecessary physical exam — and Vega captures it all with a bruised stillness.

"I don't know what I'm looking at — a chimera, that's what," Orlando's ex-wife snipes, as if she's a zoo animal paraded

for her inspection. Vega inspects *her* back, though — not with anger, on bitterness, or even contempt, but almost sympathy: How sad is it that someone could maintain such hatred and ignorance and turn it on another human being?

There are no magical reveals in *A Fantastic Woman* — no courtroom speech, no triumphant public victory, no emotional 180 for the haters. It doesn't need any. The film doesn't need to change the characters' minds, but the audiences'. It's merely saying, "the struggle is real," and daring you not to care. But you will. You have to. ■

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Enter the Dragon King

Dark Circles dance company draws inspiration for new works from Korea for Detour festival

The PyeongChang Olympic Games have wound down, but some North Texans haven't quite turned away from South Korea — not yet.

Choreographer Joshua L. Peugh started his Fort Worth-based dance company, Dark Circles Contemporary Dance, while living and working in South Korea nearly a decade ago. And for his latest work, he returns to those Asian roots.

Dark Circles is one of three local arts groups creating original work for Detour, the new performing arts festival at Addison's WaterTower Theatre, which runs March 1–4. (Detour essentially replaces the company's now-defunct Out of the Loop Fringe Festival.) Dark Circles' program will feature three dances, including a workshop performance of Peugh's tribute to autumn in Korea, entitled *Yellow*.

"In the fall, ginkgo trees turn a bright canary yellow and drop all their leaves," Peugh says. "The sidewalks are completely covered with them. That is one of the images that inspired the work."

He was also led by the fact that for the past two seasons, his troupe of male dancers have all been out gay men. "That has made creating works that are personal to me a bit easier," says Peugh. "My ultimate desire in creating and presenting my work is to reframe questions instead of providing answers. [That includes] examining socially constructed ideas about gender and sexuality. These men help me address these timeless and timely issues in a more authentic, truthful way."

And you can be one of the first to experience that at Detour.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Detour Festival, Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. March 1–4. The festival also features out performer Brigham Moseley's solo show. For a complete schedule, visit WaterTowerTheatre.org.



Lamb New Creation Photo by Joshua L. Peugh, Courtesy of Dark Circles Contemporary Dance

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marriage equality, culminated in October 2017, when Gloria was honored by the National LGBTQ Task Force [Miami] with the National Leadership Award for being a staunch LGBTQ ally and “for her work to support ... the issues that affect their lives every day,” the press release noted. (“Her recent work, such as *A Change in Heart*, serves as a testament of her humble beginnings as a Cuban immigrant and as an artist who has always held her LGBTQ fan base in her heart,” said Josue Santiago, chair of the Task Force’s Miami Gala.)

Gloria’s gay-aligned ventures don’t stop there: Given her 2017, the singer’s contribution to the queer update of Netflix’s endearing reboot of *One Day at a Time* — the show’s theme song, advising that you *keep doing what you do* — seems right in step with her gay-adjacent career. Her musical roots are, after all, steeped in queer fandom.

“The gay community was one of the first communities that supported us because we were huge in the clubs and in the gay clubs, particularly, because the gay community is usually a little bit ahead of trends and musical trends and fashion trends,” she recalls.

DJ Pablo Flores, remixer of Gloria’s megahits “Dr. Beat” and “Conga,” spun

songs she produced with Emilio at a Puerto Rican gay club during the onset of her career with the Miami Sound Machine, when she joined in 1977 as the band’s frontwoman (talk about gay — the band was originally called the Miami Latin Boys). Gloria describes Flores and the gay clubs who took them under their wings in the ’80s as “cutting edge and very supportive of us and our music in the beginning.”

Gloria was spurred to action on behalf of the LGBTQ community around that time when AIDS took the lives of many of her dearest friends and music-business colleagues.

“In the ’80s, when the AIDS epidemic was huge, we were losing a lot of our top people, and people were becoming even more scared,” she recalls. “We lost many close friends and coworkers. I just think when someone is under attack, anything I can do to support them is a good thing.”

In a statement to press, Gloria said, “I feel incredibly honored to be receiving the National LGBTQ Task Force’s Leadership Award and feel doubly blessed that it [is] in my beautiful hometown, Miami Beach. I look forward to the day when no task forces are necessary in order to ensure that each individual is considered equal in every respect.”



‘On Your Feet!’ opens at Fair Park Music Hall this week.

Late last year, Gloria was recognized yet again for her unwavering support and empathy for every kind, becoming the first Cuban-American to receive the prestigious Kennedy Center Honor Award during the event’s 40th year.

Her now-out daughter, Emily, a fellow musician, attended with her girlfriend and performed Gloria’s inspirational official song for the 1996 Summer Olympics, “Reach,” a dreamer anthem with strong ties to people within the queer community. Two of Gloria’s biggest singles, “Always Tomorrow” and “Coming Out of the Dark,” have also long served as LGBTQ lifelines.

“[Gay people] tell me wonderful things, but not just because they happen to be gay, but because they were going through tough things in their lives, and my music inspired them to push forward or to stay positive in a situation,” Gloria says. “My fans... I have a lot of gay fans. I still look out into the audience and I have fans from 2 years old to 80. I have very young kids on my Twitter, young gay kids who for some reason my music speaks to them. Maybe the empowerment, or they use it to get through tough moments. That’s what music is about. That’s what makes me happy about getting to make music.” ■

— Chris Azzopardi

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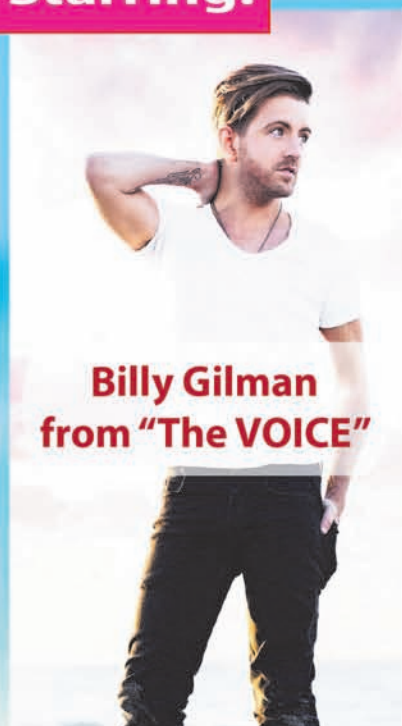
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Saturday
03.03

**Toast to Life
commemorates
20 years with
Bollywood party**

For a long time, one of the Resource Center's big annual fundraisers has been Toast to Life. Just how long? Well, this year's event will be its 20th. So they are doing it up with glamour, themed around a Bollywood Night of color and music. There will be bites from local chefs, specialty cocktails, love and silent auctions hosted by Steve Kemble and dancing brought to you by DJ Jennifer Miller, especially if you come dressed for the theme of the night. You won't be sari!

DEETS: Empire Room,
1225 N. Riverfront Blvd.
7-11 p.m. \$150. RCDallas.org.



LIFE+STYLE

best bets



Friday 03.02

**Drag Racer Bianca Del Rio
returns to Dallas, sassy as
ever**

Bianca Del Rio has long ties to Dallas, including shooting her film *Hurricane Bianca* in North Texas. Now she's back for another live performance, this time at the Majestic Theater. Blame It On Bianca will feature her trademark style of sassy attack comedy and hilarious standup from the self-described "clown in a gown." She's like the reincarnation of Joan Rivers, only not as gay.

DEETS: Majestic Theater,
1925 Elm St. 8 p.m. AXS.com



Thursday 03.01 — Sunday 03.18

**Kitchen Dog presents the regional premiere of the
boxing play 'The Royale'**

Jack Johnson, nicknamed the Galveston Giant, was one of the most famous boxers of his era (and even all time), which he accomplished as a black man in the Jim Crow South. Marco Ramirez's play *The Royale* was inspired by his legendary skill in the face of sizeable adversity. Kitchen Dog Theater presents the region premiere starting Thursday, and actor Jamal Gibrán Sterling has been in training for months to embody the fighter inside and outside the ring — the *real* Black Panther of his day.

DEETS: Trinity River Arts Center, 2600 N. Stemmons Freeway.
KitcheDogTheater.org.



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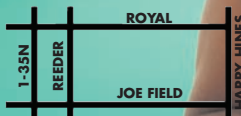
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calendar highlights



The Fort Worth Show of Antiques & Art includes exhibitors David Evans and Jorge Ruiz who run Bachelor Hill Antiques. Bianca featuring Southern Americana, interesting taxidermy and more. Runs March 2-4.

ARTSWEEK

THEATER

First Impressions: A Festival for Local Playwrights.

New theater company Imprint Theatreworks presents 10 readings of 10 world premiere plays by local playwrights. Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive. Feb. 22-24. ImprintTheatreworks.org.

Detroit '67. A play by Dominique Morriseau set against the backdrop of the civil rights riots (the same profiled in last year's film *Detroit*). *Final weekend.* Jubilee Theatre. 506 Main St., Fort Worth. JubileeTheatre.org.

I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change. The 18th (and final) production from Theatre Too of this musical revue about romance. Theatre 3, 2900 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Through March 4. Theatre3Dallas.com.

Frankenstein. A new adaptation of Mary Shelley's classic of modernity, written by Nick Dear, directed by Joel Ferrell. Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through March 4. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

Quills. Dallas native Doug Wright wrote this play about the life behind bars of the notorious Marquis de Sade. Presented by the recently-formed Black Flag Theatre Company. Cox Playhouse, 1517 H Ave., Plano. Through March 3. BlackFlagTheatre.org.

The Woman Who Knew Too Much. A new play written and directed by Kevin Grammer, about a woman with amnesia trying to solve the mystery of who she is. Ochre House Theater, 825 Exposition

Ave. Through March 3. OchreHouseTheater.org.

Thurgood. George Stevens Jr.'s play about the pioneering lawyer. *Final weekend.* Bishop Arts Theatre Center, 215 S. Tyler St. BishopArtsTheatre.org.

Three Sisters. Undermain's new staging of Chekhov's classic. Undermain Theatre, 3200 Main St. Through March 11. Undermain.org.

FINE ART

Yayoi Kusama: All the Eternal Love I Have for the Pumpkins. The DMA features the only Infinity Mirror Room of its kind in a North American collection, this tribute to the gourd by Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through April 29 (extended). DMA.org.

First Sculpture: Handaxe to Figure Stone. An exhibit of found and modified objects from the Paleolithic era of human enterprise. Nasher Sculpture Center, 2001 Flora St. Through April 28. NasherSculptureCenter.org.

Memory Mind Matter: The Sculpture of Eduardo Chillida. The work of 20th century Spanish sculptor and artist. Meadows Museum, 5900 Bishop Blvd. Through June 3. MeadowsMuseumDallas.org.

FRIDAY 02.23

COMMUNITY

Panoptikon. The weekly retro disco dance party, presented by Lord Byron. Red Light, 2911 Main St. Doors 9 p.m.



CONCERTS

Turtle Creek Chorale: The Darker Side of Broadway. Patty Breckenridge joins soloists from the TCC for a cabaret exploring the not-so-happy endings of musicals. Sammons Center for the Arts, 3630 Harry Hines Blvd. TurtleCreekChorale.com.

SATURDAY 02.24

COMMUNITY

FrontRunners. Gay jogging/walking group meets weekly at 9 a.m. in Oak Lawn Park at Hall Street and Turtle Creek Boulevard for a run along the Katy Trail.

MEDITATION

LGBTQ Day of Mindfulness Retreat. The Dallas Meditation Center hosts a day-long retreat of peace and joy targeted to the gay community, for all levels. Dallas Meditation Center, 810 W. Arapaho Road, ste. 98, Richardson. 10 a.m.–3 p.m. Donation of \$20–\$40 suggested. DallasMeditationCenter.com.

CONCERTS

Listen to My Heart — An Evening with David Friedman. A concert of songs by the out composer. Unity Church of Dallas, 6525 Forest Lane. \$25–\$30.

TUESDAY 02.27

FILM

Gigi. Winner of nine Academy Awards, this frothy colorful MGM musical about belle époque Paris won director Vincente Minnelli his only Oscar. Screens as part of the Tuesday Big Movie New Classic Series at Landmark's Magnolia Theatre in the West Village, 3699 McKinney Ave. Screens at 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.

THEATER

On Your Feet! The Broadway jukebox musical based on the music of Gloria Estefan. See story Page 20. Fair Park Music Hall, 909 First Ave. Feb. 27–March 11. DallasSummerMusicals.org

THURSDAY 02.01

CABARET

Glitterbomb Denton. Weekly queer variety show with a new lineup every Thursday, now at a new locale and new time. Andy's Bar, 122 N. Locust St., Denton. 8 p.m.

THEATER

The Royale. One of the greatest boxers in history faces substantial obstacles as black man achieving fame under Jim Crow. Based on the career of Jack Johnson. Presented by Kitchen Dog Theater. Trinity River Arts Center, 2600 N. Stemmons Freeway. March 1–18. KitchenDogTheater.org.

Detour: A Festival of New Work. WaterTower Theatre presents this inaugural weekend of readings and workshop performances from a variety of artists. Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. March 1–4. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

FRIDAY 03.02

EXHIBITION

Fort Worth Show of Antiques and Art. The 55th year of the showcase of jewelry, furniture, fashion and styles from mid-century modern to French colonial and beyond. And there's always some gay exhibitors to bond with. Free parking. Will Rogers Memorial Center, 3400 Burnett-Tandy, Fort Worth. March 2–4. FortWorthShow.com.

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Girl on girls

Jenny Block on why separate bachelorette parties were the best pre-wedding gifts to give each other

My nuptials are less than a month away, which can only mean one thing – both my fiancée and I are about to run away and get married at city hall because we cannot make one more napkin color or flower stem choice. It also means that it was time for our bachelorette parties.

Lots of friends asked if we would be having a joint bachelorette party seeing as we're both, well, bachelorettes. But it didn't take long to decide that we wanted separate ones instead. And the reason why was simple — we're separate people and neither the fact that we're both women nor the fact that we're getting married changes that.

We both decided on the same genre for our parties: Long weekends in Puerto Vallarta with seven of our nearest and dearest at our sides. We both rented massive villas complete with a chef, houseman and housekeeping staff. (Note: It's cheaper than eight hotel rooms, and you get more posh and more service for your buck.)

It bears noting that six of the seven guys who came with me I met through Robin. I couldn't help but feel particularly touched by the fact that they would do this for me, such a new member of their gang as it were.

So, if the trips were the same, then why go separately, especially since the overwhelming

don't have to go home but you can't stay here" was finally called.

At our house, we spent a good deal of time drinking far too many cocktails and shooting tequila far too good for shooting in our infinity pool overlooking the ocean in various states of undress. Come on, nobody likes tan lines. In the pool, our Ken and Barbie Doppelgangers floated naked in miniature versions of our enormous unicorn floats. At her house, lingering meals and swapping old stories was de rigueur, and my bride to be tells me that she couldn't help but get teary eyed as she toasted "her crew."

In other words, there is a distinct partying differential between Team Robin and Team Jenny, and with separate trips, no one had to compromise. For me,



majority of our travel companions were couples? The thing was, as similar as the set-ups were, the trips ended up being vastly different, because, again, we may each be one half of a couple, but we are also one whole of a person.

Her trip included one night at a cabaret followed by some bar hopping and one dinner out, as well as an all-day snorkel trip and a day at the pool at Mantamar. My trip included three nights out to dinner, two nights of bar hopping, one day at a packed Beef Dip Pool Party (yup, I was in PV during Bear Week in Mexico). And although I managed to get to bed by 1:00, some of my companions danced until "you

our bachelorette parties were a metaphor for our relationship thus far and the promise of our married life yet to come. We are getting married to cement our commitment as a couple, not to erase ourselves as individuals.

To my mind, the downfall of most couples is when two people come together in an effort to complete themselves instead of to complement one another. Robin and I are very much alike and also very different. We build each up, support one another, grow and change together both as whole, separate human beings, as well as a couple. Humans love to be loved and accepted. We are pack animals. But at our heart

of hearts, humans are also individuals who want to not only be loved and accepted but also to be loved and accepted for who we truly are at our most authentic, at our core.

Separate bachelorette parties may seem like just a silly extravagance at first blush. But, in reality, they are signs of mutual respect of who each bride is now and a promise to respect and honor those differences from this day forward. I love that Robin loves to go to piano bars and cabarets. I love that she loves Frank Sinatra and black-and-white classic films. I may prefer dance clubs and listening to Beyonce and watching Black Mirror. But those are just

personal preferences. The surface stuff is just that, surface. For better and for worse, my love for her is far deeper than any of that.

What I love is that she loves what she loves no matter what and that she feels the same about me. You'll never catch her in a unicorn onesie, and you'll never catch me with a brooch on my lapel. Heck, you'll hardly ever catch me with a lapel. But I wouldn't have it any other way. With a nod to the immortal lyric of Billy Joel, I love her just the way she is. ■

Have a question about sex, relationships or life you want Jenny to address? Email it to GirlOnGirlsJenny@gmail.com.



CEBA SWEETHEART

PHOTOS .COURTESY DIAMOND
AND JOSE PLACERAS



Making the **SCENE** the week of **Feb. 23–March 1:**

- **Alexandre's:** JaQuay and the Elm Street Kids on Friday. Bad Habits on Saturday. Karaoke with Wayne Smith on Sunday. K-Marie-Broadway on Tuesday. Anna Fredericka Popova on Wednesday. Spencer West on Thursday.
- **Cedar Springs Tap House:** Taco Tuesday with \$2 tacos and Geeks Who Drink Trivia at 7 p.m.
- **Club Changes:** DeeJay DJ presents the Divine Miss Divas show Friday. Mr. and Ms. Wall of Food 2018 on Thursday.
- **Club Reflection:** Alana Summers hosts Twisted Tuesdays featuring Sapphire Summers, Judas Cain and Sapphire Davenport Daze.
- **Dallas Eagle:** Dallas Bears' Annual Chili Cook-Off at 2 p.m. Saturday, followed at 6 p.m. by Drag Duet Roulette 2.
- **Dallas Woody's Sports & Video Bar:** Drink specials and showtunes til close on Tuesday.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** Krystal Summers hosts the Girls Like Us show at 11 on Tuesday.
- **Marty's Live:** Fundraiser on Wednesday benefiting Star Michaels as she competes for Miss Red 2018. All proceeds go to the Dallas Red Foundation.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** The Chanel Champagne Benefit Show on Sunday at 7 p.m., featuring n cover and 25 drag performances. Proceeds will help Chanel cover her medical expenses.
- **The Rose Room:** Two shows nightly, at 11 and 12:30 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Talent night at 11 p.m. Thursdays.
- **Sue Ellen's:** Ashley Bradbury on Saturday. PSSA Uniform Party at 4 p.m. Sunday, followed by Bad Habits. On Tuesday it's Tuesday Bluesday with Twyla followed by the Tuesday Tease.
- **The 515 Bar:** Those Guys perform live Friday at 9 p.m.
- **Urban Cowboy Saloon:** Don't Furget About Us pet supply drive Friday at 8 p.m. Red Carpet Drag Brunch Sunday at noon.

Scene Photographers: **Kat Haygood** and **Chad Mantooth**



Guys' night out at JR's



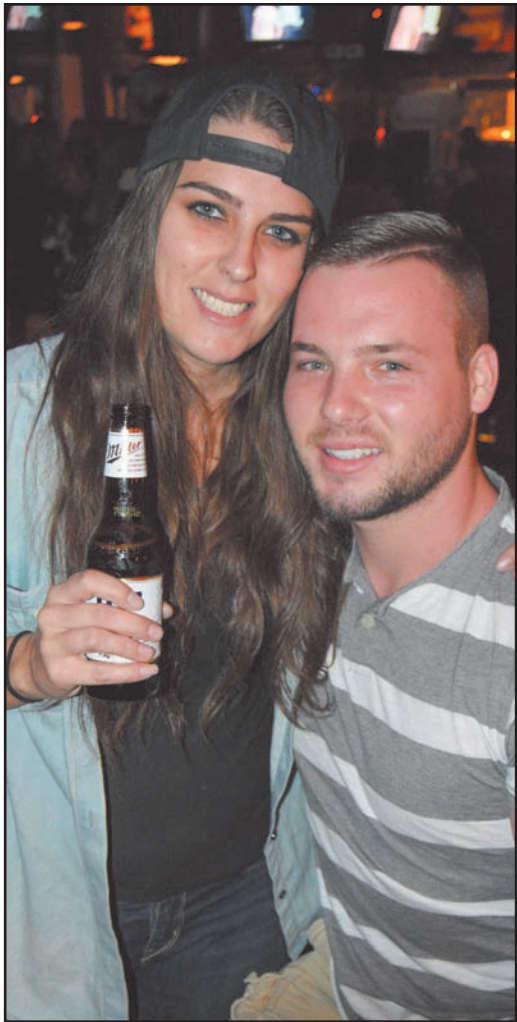
Friends hanging out on The Strip



All smiles behind the bar at Dallas Woody's



Guys' night out on The Strip



Justine and John at Dallas Woody's



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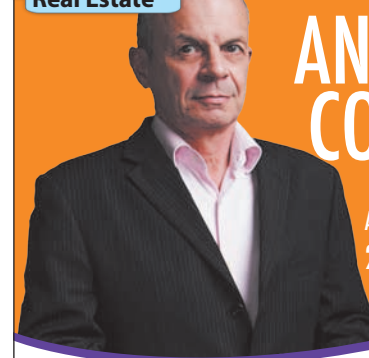
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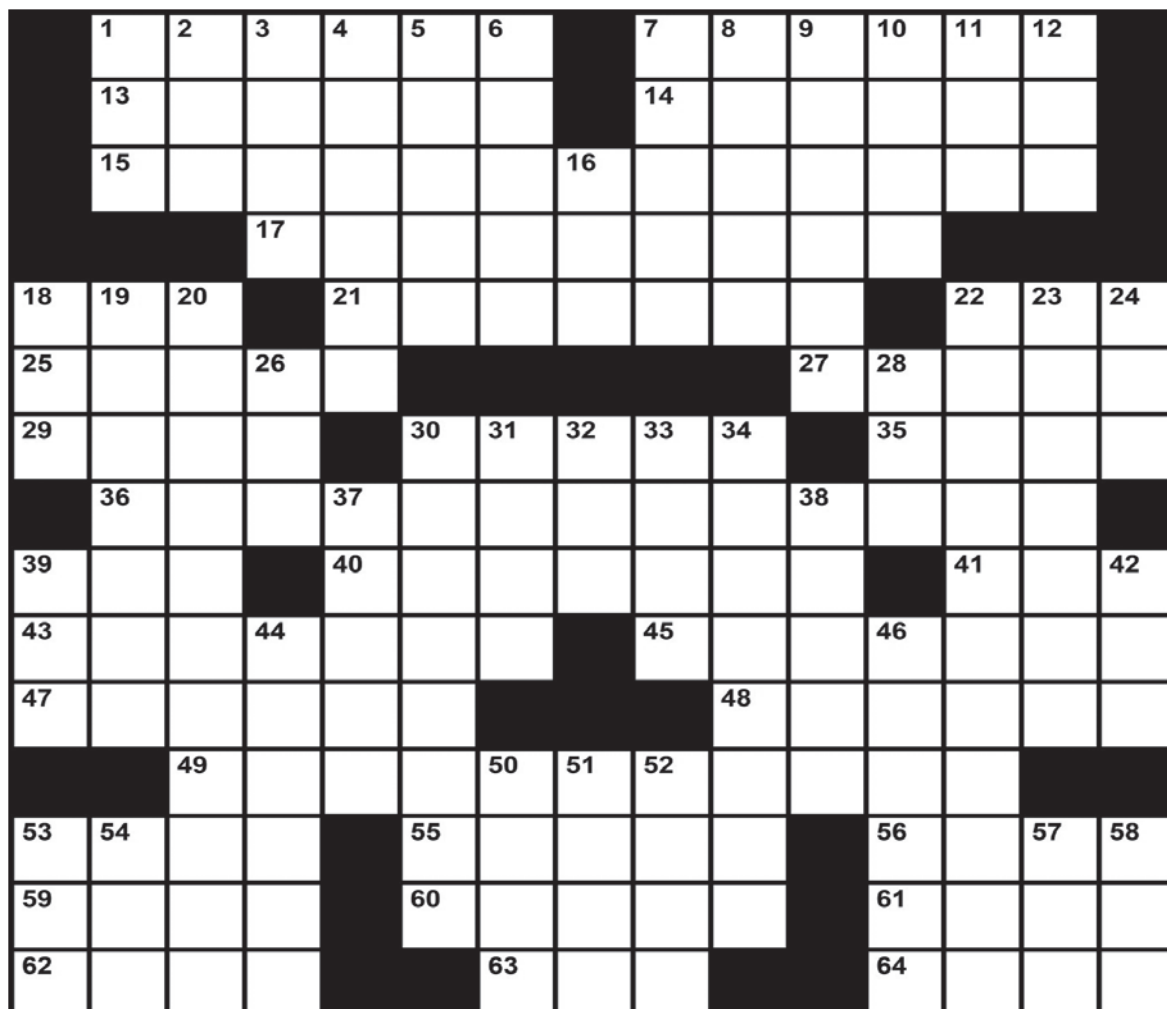
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Pryor Restraint

Solution on Page 35

Across

- 1 Sistine Chapel figure by Michelangelo
 7 Torah at Beth Chayim Chadashim
 13 It may include Log Cabin candidates
 14 Gaily colored flower
 15 Start of a quote from Richard Pryor
 17 Where students come together
 18 Post-lovemaking sighs
 21 Departure from life
 22 Ice in Ulm
 25 Chiwetel Ejiofor's *Kinky* ____
 27 Dude chaser
 29 Cut it
 30 Back biter
 35 Final Foursome org.?
 36 More of the quote
 39 Luau food
 40 Where to find a Pacific Rim job
 41 Ship letters
 43 Pirate's hue
 45 Heads of trains
 47 Treat badly
 48 Flynn role in *They Died With Boots On*
 49 End of the quote

- 53 Big name in soft balls
 55 Lover of Dali, perhaps
 56 Rock Hudson's *A Farewell to ____*
 59 Jump for Adam Rippon
 60 Ready for action, for guys
 61 Tennant of the Pet Shop Boys
 62 ____ Damon (Barbara Grier pen name)
 63 Word after "Queer" on Netflix
 64 *Saving Private Ryan* event

Down

- 1 Alec's *Star Wars* character
 2 Butt
 3 Sports car, briefly
 4 They may rain on my parade
 5 *Zami* author Audre
 6 Code of conduct
 7 Margaret Mead topic
 8 Peter the Great, and more
 9 Monaco VIP
 10 Stew in Sitges
 11 Island necklace
 12 Dog or work area
 16 Shoshonean tongue
 18 *Ellen* network
 19 It may arouse a sleeping camper

- 20 *Two Women* actress
 22 Came upon
 23 Shout after being blinded by a facial
 24 Doo-wop syllable
 26 You might tuck it into your jeans
 28 "Two Little Girls" singer DiFranco
 30 Williams of *Brokeback Mountain*
 31 Heed a master
 32 Comic actor DeLaria
 33 Former Minnesota governor Carlson
 34 Condom, in slang
 37 Loads of
 38 Base-running term
 39 Pitchfork-shaped letter
 42 Cold War abbr.
 44 Drag queen's petticoat feature
 46 ____ Records (Etheridge label)
 50 Folk history
 51 Hunted animal
 52 ____ homo
 53 Will to Grace, or Grace to Will
 54 Extension on a hard drive
 57 *Mamma ____!*
 58 Crazy like a fox

Adult

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Mytesi (crofelemer):

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- Has the same or fewer side effects as placebo in clinical studies
- Comes from a tree sustainably harvested in the Amazon Rainforest

What is Mytesi?

Mytesi is a prescription medicine that helps relieve symptoms of diarrhea not caused by an infection (noninfectious) in adults living with HIV/AIDS on antiretroviral therapy (ART).

Important Safety Information

Mytesi is not approved to treat infectious diarrhea (diarrhea caused by bacteria, a virus, or a parasite). Before starting you on Mytesi, your healthcare provider will first be sure that you do not have infectious diarrhea. Otherwise, there is a risk you would not receive the right medicine and your infection could get worse. In clinical studies, the most common side effects that occurred more often than with placebo were upper respiratory tract (sinus, nose, and throat) infection (5.7%), bronchitis (3.9%), cough (3.5%), flatulence (3.1%), and increased bilirubin (3.1%).

**For Copay Savings Card and
Patient Assistance, see Mytesi.com**

Please see complete Prescribing Information at Mytesi.com.

NP-390-25

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IMPORTANT PATIENT INFORMATION

This is only a summary. See complete Prescribing Information at Mytesi.com or by calling 1-844-722-8256. This does not take the place of talking with your doctor about your medical condition or treatment.

What Is Mytesi?

Mytesi is a prescription medicine used to improve symptoms of noninfectious diarrhea (diarrhea not caused by a bacterial, viral, or parasitic infection) in adults living with HIV/AIDS on ART.

Do Not Take Mytesi if you have diarrhea caused by an infection. Before you start Mytesi, your doctor and you should make sure your diarrhea is not caused by an infection (such as bacteria, virus, or parasite).

Possible Side Effects of Mytesi Include:

- Upper respiratory tract infection (sinus, nose, and throat infection)
- Bronchitis (swelling in the tubes that carry air to and from your lungs)
- Cough
- Flatulence (gas)
- Increased bilirubin (a waste product when red blood cells break down)

For a full list of side effects, please talk to your doctor. Tell your doctor if you have any side effect that bothers you or does not go away.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Should I Take Mytesi If I Am:

Pregnant or Planning to Become Pregnant?

- Studies in animals show that Mytesi could harm an unborn baby or affect the ability to become pregnant
- There are no studies in pregnant women taking Mytesi
- This drug should only be used during pregnancy if clearly needed

A Nursing Mother?

- It is not known whether Mytesi is passed through human breast milk
- If you are nursing, you should tell your doctor before starting Mytesi
- Your doctor will help you to decide whether to stop nursing or to stop taking Mytesi

Under 18 or Over 65 Years of Age?

- Mytesi has not been studied in children under 18 years of age
- Mytesi studies did not include many people over the age of 65. So it is not clear if this age group will respond differently. Talk to your doctor to find out if Mytesi is right for you

What Should I Know About Taking Mytesi With Other Medicines?

If you are taking any prescription or over-the-counter medicine, herbal supplements, or vitamins, tell your doctor before starting Mytesi.

What If I Have More Questions About Mytesi?

For more information, please see the full Prescribing Information at Mytesi.com or speak to your doctor or pharmacist.

To report side effects or make a product complaint or for additional information, call 1-844-722-8256.

Rx Only

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Mytesi comes from the *Croton lechleri* tree harvested in South America.

